

*Application No. 09/923272*  
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*Amendment*  
*Attorney Docket No. D55.2B-10027-US01*

**Amendments To The Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A firearm comprising:
  - a) one elongate barrel having a breach end, ~~and a muzzle end and a discharge opening, said elongate barrel having a length dimension, said length dimension being of at least 3 1/2 feet;~~ and
  - b) a plurality of vents disposed through said elongate barrel, said vents initiating beyond twelve inches from said breach end, said vents terminating proximate to said muzzle end, said vents having a size ~~less than of approximately 3/8 1/2 inch~~ in diameter or greater, said vents being constructed and arranged to minimize sound report by gradual release of gasses directly to the surrounding atmosphere through said vents along said length dimension of said barrel toward said muzzle end of said firearm following discharge of said firearm, said vents minimizing gas pressure proximate to said muzzle end.
2. (Previously presented) The firearm according to claim 1, wherein said elongate barrel has a length of less than 12 feet.
3. (Previously presented) The firearm according to claim 2, wherein said elongate barrel is formed of barrel sections.
4. (Withdrawn) The firearm according to claim 3, wherein said barrel sections are releasably coupled to each other.
5. (Previously presented) The firearm according to claim 3, wherein said barrel sections are ~~fixedly~~ secured to each other.
6. (Previously presented) The firearm according to claim 3, wherein each of said barrel sections have the same length dimension.

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7. (Withdrawn) The firearm according to claim 3, wherein at least two of said barrel sections have different length dimensions.
8. (Previously presented) The firearm according to claim 3, wherein said elongate barrel has a length of approximately seven feet.
9. (Previously presented) The firearm according to claim 2, wherein said plurality of vents are of the same size.
10. (Withdrawn) The firearm according to claim 2, said plurality of vents comprising vents of at least two different sizes.
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Previously presented) The firearm according to claim 2, wherein said vents are grouped into at least one sector.
13. (Withdrawn) The firearm according to claim 12, wherein said vents are regularly spaced within each of said sectors.
14. (Previously presented) The firearm according to claim 12, wherein said vents are irregularly spaced within each of said at least one sector.
15. (Previously presented) The firearm according to claim 12, wherein said vents are the same size within each of said at least one sector.
16. (Withdrawn) The firearm according to claim 12, said vents comprising vents of at least two different sizes within each of said sectors.
17. (Previously presented) The firearm according to claim 12, wherein each of said at least

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one sector have an identical length dimension.

18. (Withdrawn) The firearm according to claim 12, wherein at least two of said sectors have a different length dimension.

19. (Currently Amended) A firearm comprising:

- a) one elongate barrel having a breach end and a muzzle end, said elongate barrel having a length dimension, said length dimension being of at least 3 ½ feet; and
- b) a plurality of vents disposed through said elongate barrel, said vents initiating beyond twelve inches from said breach end, said vents terminating proximate to said muzzle end, said vents positioned along the barrel to minimize sound report by gradual release of gasses directly into the atmosphere through said vents along said length dimension of said barrel toward said muzzle end of said firearm following discharge of said firearm, said vents reducing gas pressure proximate to said muzzle end.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously presented) The firearm according to claim 19, wherein the barrel is constructed of two or more sections.

22. (Currently Amended) The firearm according to claim 19, wherein the vents have a diameter of ~~less than a 1/2~~ approximately 3/8 inch or less.

23. (Currently Amended) The firearm according to claim 21, wherein at least one section is constructed of material selected from the group consisting of light-weight metal, plastic, and fiberglass, ~~or any combination thereof.~~